

Radiation Uproar Cools in Moscow

By Peter Osnos

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MOSCOW, March 14—The State Department's classified explanation of the radiation hazard at the U.S. embassy here has "allayed some fears" but diplomats are still seeking further information, sources said today.

The diplomats received a partial explanation of the problem, believed to be caused primarily by Soviet surveillance equipment, in response to an angry message sent through the local branch of the American Foreign Service Association to the State Department three

weeks ago. Contents of the response, which is in the form of a fact-sheet, have not been released.

But in the apparent absence of any medical problems directly traceable to the radiation, tempers in the embassy have somewhat calmed. "We have tried to be reassuring," Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel said the other day, "and I think we have been."

Nevertheless, diplomats decided at an association meeting yesterday to ask for more specific information on results of research into the possible consequences of microwave radiation, the kind identified in the em-

bassy. The diplomats are also requesting that results of medical tests now being conducted be promptly forwarded.

So far, Americans say, no one has requested a transfer from Moscow as a result of the radiation problem, first disclosed to the staff a month ago although it had been detected for years. However, the pregnant wife of an embassy official who was working in the section of the building where the radiation is highest immediately quit her job. The dangers of microwaves are thought to be greatest for pregnant women.

Although still indignant

about the way the affair has been handled—reportedly on strict orders from Secretary of State Henry Kissinger—diplomats recognize that there is really little they can do.

Kissinger has said on several occasions that "delicate" negotiations with the Soviets are under way.

The radiation is thought to be principally the result of Soviet efforts to block American electronic surveillance of the Kremlin conducted from the embassy building.

The information supplied to diplomats here does not include the precise causes of the radiation, sources said.